

REPLY FILED WITH RCE
U.S. Appln. No. 09/326,691

Request for entry of the Amendment filed January 24, 2003 is made in the RCE concurrently filed herewith. After entry of the Amendment filed January 24, 2003, the only pending rejections are the rejections of claims 17-19 based on EP 070143 or JP09151279.

For at least the reasons as set forth in the Remarks filed with the Amendment filed January 24, 2003, Applicants submit that the present rubber composition to be used for a rubber reinforcing layer and/or a bead filler, as defined by claims 17 and 19, has a composition and physical property which are different from the compositions and physical properties of the tread rubbers of EP 070143 or JP09151279.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that their claimed invention is allowable and ask that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102/§103 be reconsidered and withdrawn. Applicants respectfully submit that this case is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully solicited.

If any points remain at issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the local exchange number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: April 24, 2003